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The Hongkong Telegraph

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WEATHER FORECAST
FAIR.
Barometer 29.85.

February 5, 1918. Temperature 6 a.m. 59 2 p.m. 63
Humidity 93 85

February 5, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 54 2 p.m. 58
Humidity 51 46

7870 四廿月二十

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1918.

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THE UNREST IN CHINA.

Southern Troops Approaching Hankow.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Shanghai, February 5.
The Southern troops are approaching Hankow. There was fighting on the 31st ult. at Kingchow, twenty-one miles distant. The Northerners are retiring. The steamer Tayuan was fired on and was forced to return.

GERMANS IN CHINA.

Reported Proposal for Internment.

Shanghai, February 5.
China is reported to be intending to intern all Germans at Pootoo, on Chusan Island.

[Reuter's Telegrams.]

THE GERMAN STRIKE SITUATION.

Work Being Gradually Resumed.

London, February 4.
It is most difficult to obtain an accurate view of the German strike situation, but it appears at the moment that there is a gradual resumption of work. The Commander at Berlin threatens with a year's imprisonment any further participation in the direction of a strike.

Strikers Called to the Colours.

London, February 4.
Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam says that a telegram from Berlin announces that the military are summoning to the colours all soldiers on leave and men recalled from the army for essential trades who participated in the strike. *Vorwärts* states that the trial of Herr Dittmann has begun before an Extraordinary Court Martial.

A telegram from Trieste announces that shipyard and factory workers struck yesterday, but resumed work to-day after having an interview with the Governor.

THE ALLIED WAR COUNCIL.

Preparing for the German Attack.

London, February 3.
Reuter's correspondent at Paris says that the Versailles Conference rose yesterday afternoon. The *Petit Parisien* says that Lord Milner remains in Paris conferring with M. Clemenceau until to-morrow concerning food supplies. The *Echo de Paris* states that a clear understanding was attained on what was necessary to do to meet the forthcoming German attack.

Most Delicate Points Settled.

London, February 4.
General satisfaction is expressed at the result of the Versailles Conference. M. Clemenceau, who presided throughout, in an interview stated:—"For four days we worked and argued. The last day was decisive and even the most delicate points were settled."

The Council's Functions.

London, February 4.
The Council has at Versailles a Permanent Staff which maintains a continuity of work and is thus able to maintain direct and personal contact between the heads of Governments. This is really the basis of the idea behind the conception of a Supreme War Council. Each Power has at Versailles a body of permanent military representatives, each with a staff of subordinate officers. These military representatives arrange and collate information supplied by the various General Staffs and other Military Departments and suggest the broad lines on which this information may be utilized by the War Council.

THE MAN-POWER QUESTION.

Explanation of a Deadlock.

London, February 2.
Mr. Henderson's communication, to which the official reply was cabled last evening, urged the Government to abandon its refusal to meet the Amalgamated Society of Engineers separately from the National Labour Conference in order to discuss the new man-power proposals. The Engineers decided not to consider the proposals unless this preferential treatment, previously accorded, was repeated. Hence the deadlock.

FRENCH MUNITION WORKS EXPLOSION.

Serious Damage and Loss of Life.

London, February 3.
Reuter's correspondent at Paris says that 10 were killed and 30 injured in an explosion and fire at a munition works at Moulins. There was serious damage but the adjacent powder magazine was saved.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

PROGRESS IN PALESTINE.

London, February 3.
A Palestine official message says: "We advanced slightly in the vicinity of Amman, northward of Jerusalem. We destroyed twelve enemy aeroplanes during January."

THE EAST AFRICAN CAMPAIGN.

London, February 3.
East Africa official: The Cape coloured corps have occupied Nwambo, unopposed, and pursued the enemy to Matika. We seized Pannini Hill, forty-five miles inland of Port Amelia, capturing thirty tons of food. Later we occupied Amwabe.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

THE ALLIED MILITARY COUNCIL.

Its Great Value Recognised.

London, February 3.
The "Observer's" Military correspondent learns that the British General Staff and Higher Command recognise the value of the new machinery of the Versailles Council of military leaders. The London General Headquarters and Versailles are working together as a band of brothers. No official proposal has yet been put forward for the creation of a Generalissimo of the whole western front.

Happy Results Achieved.

Paris, February 3.
M. Clemenceau, interviewed after the sitting of the Allied War Council at Versailles yesterday, said that the happiest results have been achieved. Saturday's sitting was particularly satisfactory.

Enemy War Aims Considered.

London, February 3.
The Press Bureau announces that the Supreme War Council at Versailles carefully considered Count Hertling's and Count Czernin's speeches, but were unable to find an approximation to the moderate conditions laid down by the Allies. This conviction was deepened by the contrast between the Central Powers' idealities at Brest-Litovsk and the plans of conquest and spoliation now openly disclosed. The Supreme War Council therefore decided that our immediate task is a most vigorous prosecution of the war until a change in the enemy's temper justifies the hope of peace on terms not involving the abandonment of freedom and justice in the face of an aggressive and unrepentant militarism. The Council secured complete agreement on all questions, both of policy and the measures of execution thereof.

STRIKE DISORDERS IN BERLIN.

Amsterdam, February 3.
A Berlin semi-official telegram of 2nd Feb. states: "The strikes everywhere are waning. The number of strikers has considerably diminished, especially at the smaller munition-works where full staffs are working in many cases. Well informed people assume that the strike will be entirely ended by Monday." Whilst the military proclamations apparently had some effect in Berlin the papers report further disturbances in Berlin on the 1st. Trams were stopped, their windows broken, the lines and overhead wires damaged and tram employees assaulted, while the principal workshops of the Tram Company had to be closed. Strong forces of police used their sabres against the strikers and dispersed strikers attempting to hold meetings. Herr Treppow arrested many ringleaders. It is reported that 160 were arrested in Berlin last week and special court martials began sittings. The Hamburg "Freidenkblatt" says: "The strike has broken out at all the industrial works in Lubeck. Other German papers report that the strikes have ended at Cologne, Cassel, Breslau, Leipzig and Ludwigshafen but have extended to Dresden. Troops prevented a demonstration before the Royal Palace at Munich and arrested a number of Bavarian strike leaders. A proclamation by the General Commanding at Munster declares that extensive propaganda based on the ideas of the Russian revolution has resulted in some sections of the population acting treasonably against the Fatherland and declares that political resistance will be smashed."

THE WESTERN FRONT.

London, February 3.
Sir Douglas Haig reports: "We drove off raiders with loss eastward of Polygon wood. Hostile artillery has been active south-eastward of Ephe, in the neighbourhood of the Arras-Cambrai road, southward of Armentieres and in the Ypres sector. We repulsed a raid at Poelcappelle. Patrol encounters resulted to our advantage southward of Lens. There has been hostile artillery at Laventie and southward of Lens. Admiralty aircraft bombed Varsenaere aerodrome yesterday morning and obtained a direct hit. Fire broke out. We destroyed one enemy machine. All of ours returned."

AIR RAID DISTRESS.

Thames and East Coast Towns Ask for More Help.

Air raids have caused serious distress in the Isle of Thanet. For the past 12 months there have been practically no visitors to Ramsgate or Broadstairs, and the crippling of the fishing industry has deprived the towns of their usual means of living throughout the winter. The Mayor of Ramsgate has expressed regret that the Government scheme for war compensation does not meet cases of financial distress. "We have had separate treatment from the Hane," he says, "and, therefore, I think we are entitled to receive separate treatment from the Government. The towns of the Midlands and South and West coasts should contribute to a fund which will enable us of the war zone to keep going."

At Margate the situation is the same, and on Saturday the Education Committee decided to inaugurate penny dinners for needy school children. The town has no staple industry, and depends largely upon visitors and schools. Many of the latter have been closed temporarily, together with most of the private hotels and boarding-houses. Altogether there are more empty houses than have been known in the history of the place, with a corresponding loss of rental value and rents. In consequence the Thanet towns have formed joint committees to approach the Government for relief. The Canadian and New Zealand Governments have afforded some assistance, but Thanet as a whole asks that more may be done. The same applies to Yarmouth, where many of the shops have been closed for three years, and amusement and other caterers have suffered heavily. Up to March over \$20,000 had been received from the Canadian fund towards payment of arrears of rent of boarding and lodging house-keepers, hotel proprietors, and tradesmen. Nearly that amount has been distributed in the form of food, coal, and cash to some 800 families in distress. The outlook for the coming year is gloomy.

THE INDIAN SCHOOL.

Presentation of Prizes.

The prizes at the Elia Kadoorie School for Indians were given away by Sir Ellis Kadoorie yesterday. Those present also included Mr. and Mrs. E. Ralphs and Mr. R. J. Birbeck (Headmaster).

The Headmaster read the following report:—"During the year the school was open on 228 days, the average attendance being 74. The highest on the roll was 82 in May, and the lowest 47 in September. The average attendance for the previous year was 49, and this increase in the numbers is going on steadily, which is very satisfactory as the fees have been increased from \$1 a month to \$2. In the half yearly and annual examination 78 boys were examined, of whom 45 passed, or 58 per cent. This low percentage was caused by Class 3, which had been put into two divisions on June 1—19 in 8s, and 17 in 8b. Of these 36 boys, only 10 passed. This was due to the fact that they were very young boys, who had lately come to school and knew nothing. However a great improvement has taken place since they have been divided into two classes, as the results of the present year will show. Classes 4, 5, 6, 7 were examined by the Headmaster in colloquial, reading and recitation. Reading and recitation were quite good and colloquial was better at the annual examination. In Classes 4 and 5 composition was poor and in Class 6 only half the boys passed in dictation. There is a tendency towards untidiness in written work in several of the classes. In Urdu, Mr. Bhaben Singh reports that the upper classes are satisfactory, but that the new boys are very poor, which can be accounted for by many of them being Chinese in their homes. We considered that our term was too small to enter for the Football League but we have played friendly matches with Victoria British School and junior teams from Wanchai, as well as class matches. One tennis court has been available since March and has been played on regularly. Mr. U. Ramjahn kindly collected \$88, which enabled us to buy the necessary nets etc. A tournament among the boys was played and several matches with other schools. A waste piece of ground south of the school has been turned into a garden and supplies a useful amusement for about 30 of the boys, who have small pieces in which they can grow whatever they like. The Indian masters have taken a great interest in it and its success is due in a great measure to Mr. Bhaben Singh. A small increase has been made in the library and we now have between 60 and 65 books which are taken out regularly. Drill is taken by all the masters and each class has two drills a week. The Staff has remained the same, with the addition of Mr. Fan U-chin, who joined the school on June 1, and has taken Class 8b. The general health of the boys has been very good and little leave has been asked for on account of sickness. This is only natural, as this school is in a healthier situation than most in the Colony. The discipline and general behavior of the boys is better, particularly in Class 8b, but there is still room for improvement. The thanks of the school are due to Sir Ellis Kadoorie and Mr. Arculli, who not only have paid a considerable amount of money for the school of the poor boys, but have also sent presents of books, stationery, and other things. I would like to express my appreciation of the various ways in which all the staff and the school have been helped."

and shared in the boys' amusements. The prize list was as follows:—

Class 4.—1st, Abdullah Bath; Composition, Abdullah Bath; Urdu, Abdullah Bath; 2nd, Channan Singh.

Class 5.—1st, Jeremiah Nissim; Composition, Jeremiah Nissim; 2nd, Khwaj Mohamed; Urdu, Mohamed Hassan.

Class 6.—1st, A. H. Madar; 2nd, M. A. Yacoub; Composition, M. A. Yacoub; Urdu, Mohamed Usaf.

Class 7.—1st, Sobhan Singh; Composition, Sobhan Singh; 2nd, J. David; Urdu, Abdul Karim.

Class 8.—1st, Moosa Hassan; Urdu, Moosa Hassan; 2nd, Kassim Omar; Composition, Kassim Omar.

Sir Ellis Kadoorie said that he took a very lively interest in the School and that it had given him great pleasure to give away the prizes. He hoped that the improvement shown last year both in the work and in the attendance would continue.

Mr. O. Madar said he was present in order to thank Sir Ellis Kadoorie on behalf of many of the parents of the boys at the School for the great work he had done in building the school and in helping every month with the boys' fees. He hoped that the boys would profit by their School training and would always remember what Sir Ellis Kadoorie had done for them in providing so fine a site. The proceedings closed with cheers for Sir Ellis Kadoorie and Mr. and Mrs. Ralphs.

THE LABOUR COMPANIES.

By Capt. H. B. C. Pollard.

From time to time a brief reference occurs in the messages of war correspondents to the Labour Companies who work behind the lines in France and Flanders, and all too frequently one finds further reference to them in the casualty lists.

A Labour Company is a curious unit consisting of several hundred men, a captain, and his staff that is its official establishment. The personnel is extremely various and very interesting, it consists of the classes who are not fit for the front line, and these may be either volunteers who are over age—patriots of any age up to sixty—or soldiers who have served and have incurred some wound or physical disability which makes them only serviceable for non-combatant work.

The actual work done by these Labour Companies is bewildering in its variety. They build and repair roads, dig trenches, erect defences and redoubts, construct main light railroads and handle heavy stores and transport. They are liable to be split up into small groups all engaged upon different kinds of odd jobs, or the whole company may be concentrated on a special task such as laying a light railway after an advance.

Nowadays there is a very complete system of light railroads behind the trenches. When an allied advance is carried out and the Germans driven back over a substantial depth of front, one of the first tasks of the Labour Companies is to continue the light railroads over the lacerated strip of No Man's Land and the crater field which was the enemies' position, and connect it up with what is left of the German light railroad system in the captured area. In the same way small wrecked and mine destroyed roads that are broken everywhere, the old front lines have to be repaired and made passable for traffic. New or improvised tracks, made of rails and heavy timbered points, and even the use of the old railway tracks, are employed for this purpose.

Experiences have proved that the spade is no less essential than the rifle, and that the grime of the trench is no less a part of the soldier's life as the fire of the battle. The Labour Companies are the men who do the work that is not glamorous, but which is the backbone of the army.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to The "Telegraph.")

THE SILVER MARKET.

London, February 2.
The silver market is quiet.

DON'T FORGET.

TO-DAY.

Horace Goldin at Victoria Theatre; 9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema-graph—9.15 p.m.

TO-MORROW.

Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema-graph—9.15 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 7.
Theatre Royal—Concert by A. Mirovitch and M. Piestro; 9.15 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 11.
Chinese New Year.
Monday, Feb. 25.
Race Meeting—1st Day.
Tuesday, Feb. 26.
Race Meeting—2nd Day.
Wednesday, Feb. 27.
Race Meeting—3rd Day.

are to fore, concentrated in bivouacs or camps close in the rear of the fighting troops.

Their work is carried out under persistent artillery fire, for the enemy specialises in bombarding the "back areas" after an attack, knowing full well that there will be concentration of troops in all likely spots, and batteries in all the most favourable gun positions. Fighting troops have only to pass through these rear area bombardments, but the Labour Companies have to carry on their work amid the shelling, and in consequence incur frequent casualties.

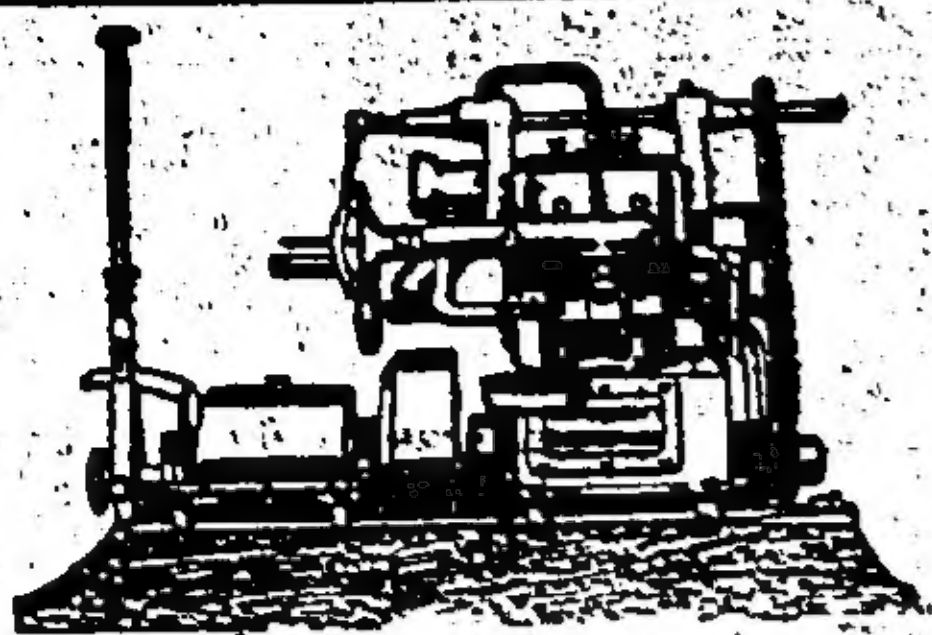
With the ever increasing demand for all types of construction work, has come an enormous expansion of the Labour Corps. All kinds of Labour Units have been recruited among the colonies and dependencies of the Allies, and one may find Zulus and Kaffirs from South Africa, Chinese coolies from China, Tonkinese and Annamese from French Indo-China, Canadian railroad construction troops, even units of trained Canadian foresters, and in the farther back areas, the ever increasing roadmaking gangs.

In a war such as this which is primarily a war of organisation and attrition, the importance of Labour organisation cannot be overrated. The work is not showy, or pleasant, or even romantic, but it is really the foundation of all victory, for, without it, the fighting troops could not obtain their supplies, the guns their inordinate ration of munitions, or the engineers their mining gear, wire and picket posts.

In the national war organisation of the future labour units will play no inconsiderable part, for they are almost the most important of all the new organisations which have arisen as supplementary to the army during the present war. The problem of the proper counter poise between labour units with the service in the field, and labour in industry and munition works at home, will in future be part of the great task of mobilisation rather than as has been the case in this present war, something which had to be faced and dealt with during the campaign in the need for action became urgent.

Experiences have proved that the spade is no less essential than the rifle, and that the grime of the trench is no less a part of the soldier's life as the fire of the battle. The Labour Companies are the men who do the work that is not glamorous, but which is the backbone of the army.

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" " " " 50	1.85
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GENERAL NEWS.

Artificial Limbs.
A conference was held recently between the Minister of Pensions and the makers of artificial limbs for disabled soldiers, with the object of standardizing this manufacture. As a result, the manufacturers have agreed to make standardised types of artificial limbs at the direction of the Minister. A national committee has also been set up to make arrangements for the Inter-Allied Pensions Conference which is to be held next year.

Mr. John Morgan Richards.
Dr. Page, the American Ambassador, provided recently at the Imperial Restaurant over a dinner given in his honor of Mr. John Morgan Richards, father of the late John Oliver Richards (Mr. Craigie), who has completed 50 years' residence in England. There was a distinguished company, and after Dr. Page had engaged Mr. Richards, the latter said that, although he had spent over 18,000 days in England, he thought that the best had yet to come.

Obituary.
London journalism is the poorer by the death, announced recently, of Mr. John Duguid Irvine, familiarly known in Fleet-street as "G.D.," who for over 30 years was a well-known member of the staff of the Morning Post. Mr. Irvine was in his 54th year, and during his career had filled the offices of chairman of the London District of the Institute of Journalists and of the Press Gallery. An enthusiastic Freemason, he was a P.M. of the Gallery Lodge, and his London rank conferred upon him in 1912.

Censored Literature.
The attitude of the Government towards freedom of publishing was again discussed in Parliament. Mr. Faber drew from Mr. Bonar Law an assurance that "Bolton" was being dealt with on which Mr. Bringle inquired whether Mr. "Easy" (Mr. Liberty) had been seized. Sir George Cave informed Mr. Trevelyan that in the case of the present Order, there, if passed by the House of Commons, need not show the name of author until present stocks are exhausted. There would be every endeavour to avoid interference with election literature. On the seizure of "Loyal" (Mr. Wedgwood) has written a profile, the Home Secretary was asked by the India Office to intervene. He has read the book from cover to cover, and agrees that it condones the use of bombs and pistols for assassination. He acquiesces in the intention of approving such literature, and adds that Lejla is not now at liberty in India.

A New Snicker Dodge.
New York, December 10. One of the methods used by snickers to obtain exemption from the draft has been discovered by Dr. Alexander H. Reimer of Mount Sinai Hospital and Private Lewis Whitestone of Base Hospital No. 3 of the United States Medical Corps. It is the injection of the white of egg to simulate symptoms of Bright's disease. Private Whitestone, who is now in an American hospital, a man of professional appearance talking with a strong man who said he had been drafted. The former, who proved to be a doctor, secured the young man to be drafted by the draft board. An operation would give the subject every appearance of having Bright's disease. The doctor heard the name of this substance used last night to Dr. Reimer, who also is in the Medical Corps, and told him of the conversation. The test was applied to Whitestone and the substance claimed appeared. Dr. Reimer requested Whitestone to appear before a military medical staff. As a result of this examination the soldier was found to be Bright's disease, and was released. Whitestone, who is now in an American hospital, a man of professional appearance talking with a strong man who said he had been drafted. The former, who proved to be a doctor, secured the young man to be drafted by the draft board. An operation would give the subject every appearance of having Bright's disease. The doctor heard the name of this substance used last night to Dr. Reimer, who also is in the Medical Corps, and told him of the conversation. The test was applied to Whitestone and the substance claimed appeared. Dr. Reimer requested Whitestone to appear before a military medical staff. As a result of this examination the soldier was found to be Bright's disease, and was released.

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Obtainable at Messrs. A. & S. WATSON & CO., LTD., and all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors.
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IRON, STEEL, METAL AND HARDWARE MERCHANTS. Wholesale and Retail Importers. Pig, Iron, and Foundry Castings. General Storekeepers and Importers. 140, Queen's Road, Central, Hongkong.

TRANG FOOK.
PIANO, KARPAS, REPAIRS, TUNING, UPRIGHT, CASES, &c. POLISHED, WORK & FINISH GUARANTEED. BURNING & SUBSTITUTION. 140, QUEEN'S ROAD, CENTRAL. HONGKONG. NO. 140.

GENERAL NEWS.

Shanghai and Hongkong Tragedy.
The shooting of a foreign police inspector and a detective by Chinese in Hongkong and the subsequent minor "Sydney Street" affair, created almost a sensation in Shanghai. We have contained these ourselves, but in Hongkong they are not looked upon as a risk to police have constantly to face, says the N. G. Daily News.

A Benevolent Autocracy.
Mr. Hodge, Minister of Police, alluding to autocracy in the ranks of some employers, said: "I do not dislike that, because I believe there is no other system of government than benevolent autocracy." The man of low physique had often been hounded because he was of keeping up to the scratch of the robust man. That was a point where we must in future exercise discrimination. He was a believer in consultative committee in every factory and in payment by results.

Sandbagged Soldier.
Detectives detained two Australian infantrymen recently on suspicion of having been concerned in the murder of Pte. Imley, a Canadian, who died in hospital a fortnight ago after having been attacked and robbed in a turning off the Waterloo-road. No charge was preferred, and both men received all knowledge of the matter. At the inquest, which was adjourned, Pte. John McKinley, another Canadian, related how he and Imley were attacked from behind. According to the doctor's evidence Imley was sandbagged.

Objectors Sent to Front.
Some time ago there were sent from New Zealand to England a number of conscientious objectors to military service. They were for a long time kept at Sling Camp, Salisbury, but since then they have been sent to France. A letter received from one of the men states that three of their number—Little, Baxter, and Ballantyne—have been sent up to the front line. At Grayson Barracks, Robert O. McNeill and Roderic K. Clark were court-martialled for the third time for refusing to obey military orders. They have both served nearly a year's imprisonment. Both were now found guilty, and the sentence will be promulgated in due course.

Chinese Politician in Court.
A Chinese, claiming to be a member of the House of Representatives, and described as an ex-teacher, was charged in the Shanghai Mixed Court, along with a carpenter, a woodcarver, a hawker and a farmer, on an indictment of armed robbery. Mr. Rogers, who appeared for the "disgraced" prisoner in the dock, explained how his client came to and himself in such a pass. Counsel said his client was a member of the House of Representatives, and at the time he was arrested he was paying a call upon a man called Dun, a Cantonese gambler. Det. Serge, Page, in answer to the Court, said the man had been seen visiting the house in which the ammunition was found, and when the Police searched the place, a like photo was found bearing a likeness to the man. The place where the man was arrested, said witness, was a low class street, and did not seem a likely place where a member of the House of Representatives would visit. Mr. Rogers submitted that the photo found was that of another man and not the accused. The case was remanded, the man being allowed \$500 bail.

NOTICES.

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AN IDEAL INSTRUMENT
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Investigation has proved that nine out of every ten people really need glasses.

N. LAZARUS

OPHTHALMIC OPTICIAN
28, Queen's Road Central.

GENERAL NEWS.

Canadian Flying Officer Killed.
Lieutenant William O. Thompson, R.F.C., was killed while flying at Montrose. He was second in command of a short distance from the ground the aeroplane fell, killing the airman on the spot. He was a son of Mr. Alfred Thompson, Woodstock, Ontario, and was 24 years old.

From Trenches to Answer Murder Charge.
An Italian, Gino Ferrari, has been taken from the trenches in the Trentino to answer a charge of murdering his brother-in-law, Serafino Fassani, at Toltenham, in July 1915. The two men were partners in a number of small eating houses, and they fell out over money matters. It was alleged that Ferrari shot Fassani and also injured two other Italians. No extradition of an alleged murderer is allowed by Italian law, and following a commission in England the trial will take place in Italy.

London Meat Supply.
After hearing Mr. Boys, of the Ministry of Food, a mass meeting of the London Central Markets Association recently decided to form a London Wholesale Meat Supply Association, with the following objects: To assist and regulate the supply and distribution of meat in London; to ascertain from time to time the daily requirements of the London area; to purchase supplies and to receive consignments for wholesale distribution in London; if the neces-

sity arises to make arrangements for the storage of meat; and to fix prices. The association was formed at the request of the Ministry of Food, and will be subject to the orders and directions of the Ministry. Mr. A. P. Twigg, who presided, said he had authority for stating that the Government had in contemplation a policy to eliminate all competitive buying. They were going to put a stop to the practice of butchers paying more than the maximum price for meat.

No Petrol for Soldiers.
Motor-cars are still being used to an appreciable extent for unnecessary purposes, says the Petrol Controller in a statement issued recently, accompanying a new order made by the Board of Trade. There is unfortunately reason to believe that some people are acquiring supplies in an illegitimate or irregular manner, and this has rendered possible the use of private cars for non-essential purposes. This has got to stop, the Petrol Controller declares, because the increasing transport needs, and the growth of aeroplane activity, taken in conjunction with the necessity of saving tonnage, compel the use of motor spirit for non-essential cars was prohibited some months ago, and by the new order this prohibition applies to cars for hunting, shooting, and golfing, or for any purpose which cannot be justified on the ground of absolute necessity. Vehicles enrolled for war service are exempt from the restrictions of the order only while they are actually employed on such service.

Prepaid Advertisements.

ONE CENT PER WORD
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TO BE LET.

TO BE LET.—FURNISHED HOUSE at Mount Davis Pokfulam Road, for February, March and April. Rent moderate. Apply H. E. Goldsmith, P. W. D.

TO BE LET.—A FLAT in Nathan Road, Kowloon. FOUR ROOMED-HOUSES in Kowloon. Apply to—HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE CO., LTD., Alexandra Buildings.

TO BE LET.—HOUSES on SHAMSHAN, CANTON. OFFICES in York Buildings. Apply to—THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

WANTED.

WANTED.—A POSITION by an ENGLISH BOY, who has just left school, in a Commercial House. Apply to "K" c/o Hongkong Telegraph.

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WANTED.—For Music Store, LADY ASSISTANT. Apply Box 1358 c/o Hongkong Telegraph.

DANCE CIRCLE.—Spend a pleasant evening, Monday and Thursday, 9 P.M. 31, Queen's Road Central, ground floor, next door Hongkong Cinema.

WANTED.—Two or three LARGE OFFICE ROOMS in Central Locality. Apply to: Tong Sang & Co., 19, Queen's Road, Central, Telephone No. 975.

POSITION WANTED as NURSE or CHAMBERMAID, for the period of a journey to America, by a lady desirous of obtaining free passage from Hongkong to New York. Apply Box 1343 c/o Hongkong Telegraph.

NOTICES.

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HAS BEEN USED WITH CONSPICUOUS SUCCESS IN THE TREATMENT OF PNEUMONIA, BRONCHITIS, SPRAINS, BRUISES, BOILS, BURNS, AND IN ALL INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS WHERE LOCAL TREATMENT IS REQUIRED.

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Easy to use and Entirely supersedes the old fashioned LINSEED POULTICES, BLISTERS, PLASTERS, Etc.

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GENERAL NEWS.

Ipoh's Electricity.
The Times of Malaya understands that the Chief Secretary has communicated with the Kuala Lumpur Sanitary Board to the effect that he cannot approve of any scheme by which lighting of Ipoh town by electricity will be handed over to private enterprise. It is the view of the Government that such a scheme should be taken complete charge of by the Government. This statement put a complete check on what was known as the Pengkalen scheme, and matters stand as they did before.

Revision of the Psalter.
The Council of the Church Association at its last meeting unanimously passed a resolution regarding the publication of the Psalter by the Council of the Church Association, reaffirming its belief in the inspiration of the Scriptures, and protesting against any objection of Church authority over the absolute supremacy of the Bible. The resolution added: "While not literalizing any figurative expression, it is in such Psalms a righteous vengeance upon the working of evil."

East of Suez Troops.
Territorial troops serving East of Suez have a very strong claim to the war chevrons, and there is some little feeling amongst them on the subject. Territorial troops have the same Imperial obligation as those who are in Egypt, Greece and elsewhere, and probably suffer more through climate conditions, etc., whilst many battalions have tried hard to get to war zones, and up to the present have not been gratified. A little diplomacy on the part of the War Office would be welcome.—London and China Express.

Raw Wool For Japan.
It is reported that the British Government has inquired concerning Japan's requirements in raw wool for the coming year, but that Japanese merchants are taking little interest in the matter. This lack of interest may be explained in two ways. First, the

falling off—or rather total cessation—of military orders from Russia; and secondly by the fact of the large stocks of wool in Japan being far from exhausted yet. At the time when embargoes used to be placed on wool and taken off again with startling frequency, speculative buyers in Japan were reported to have imported a great deal more than they had any use for, solely because it was obvious that the world was using up wool faster than the sheep were growing it.

Tribute to the Ploughman.
Sir Arthur Yapp, addressing the workers of the Kensington War Hospital Supply Depot, said if the humiliation of compulsory rationing, with the great new army of workers which it would involve, was to be avoided, a supreme national effort must be made. The small holder and amateur gardener had saved the situation for us this year. It was due to their efforts that we had such a magnificent potato crop. Sir Arthur Yapp reported that the first hundred thousand "ship savers" have been enrolled in the League of National Safety. All classes are represented, including Lord Harcourt, the Earl of Plymouth, the Dowager Countess of Guilford, Sir Fredk. and Lady Pollock, and the Lord Mayors of Manchester and Cardiff.

Common Sergeant's Farewell.
Sir Albert (Katharine), the Common Sergeant of the City of London, bade farewell to the Old Bailey recently after having presided at one of the courts for 174 years. Speaking with some emotion, Sir Albert said he had rendered his resignation because he felt that a younger, stronger, and better man should take his place. Mr. R. D. Mair on behalf of the Bar, said Sir Albert came to the court with a great reputation and had effected an improvement in the form of indictments. He had a pungent wit, but it was always strictly "bottled up" on the Bench. Although sometimes it made a delightful escape in the lavatory room. The Lord Mayor said the Corporation had always regarded Sir Albert as one of the best judges and best judges that the Bench had ever had.

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It is reported that the British Government has inquired concerning Japan's requirements in raw wool for the coming year, but that Japanese merchants are taking little interest in the matter. This lack of interest may be explained in two ways. First, the

NOTICES.

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ALL SIZES IN STOCK

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J. T. SHAW

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NOTICES.

HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the Hongkong Hotel, Hongkong, on SATURDAY, the 23rd February, 1918, at 11.30 A.M. for the purpose of receiving the reports of the Directors together with a Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1917. The REGISTER BOOKS of SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from MONDAY 4th to SATURDAY 9th February, 1918, (both days inclusive), during which period no TRANSFER of SHARES can be registered. By Order of the Board of Directors: JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON, General Managers, Hongkong, 26th January, 1918.

SINGAPORE DOLLAR DIRECTORY IS BOOMING!

Send in Name and Address NOW For the 1918 issue of the HONGKONG DOLLAR DIRECTORY Dollar Directory Company 79 P.O. Box 431, Hongkong.

THE HONGKONG & SOUTH CHINA WAR SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

APPLICATION forms for Membership of the above Association may be obtained from all the Banks or from the undersigned. THE UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD. Honorary Secretaries & Treasurers, Hongkong, 14th January, 1918.

MASSAGE MR. HONDA. Japanese Massage. 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000.

NOTICES.

THE KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TWENTY-NINTH ORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the COMPANY'S OFFICES VICTORIA BUILDINGS on SATURDAY 9th February, 1918, at 11 o'clock A.M. for the purpose of receiving the REPORT of DIRECTORS together with Statements of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1917. The REGISTER of SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from MONDAY 4th to SATURDAY 9th February, 1918, (both days inclusive), during which period no TRANSFER of SHARES can be registered. By Order of the Board of Directors: A. SHELTON HOOPER, Secretary to the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd., General Agents for the Kowloon Land and Building Co., Ltd., Hongkong, 29th January, 1918.

NOTICE.

HONGKONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY. The Annual Meeting will be held at the City Hall on WEDNESDAY February 6th at 12 NOON. Mr. T. F. Hough will take the chair. K. MCKENNY, Hon. Secretary.

HONGKONG CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS. THE NINETEENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the Company will be held at the Office of this Company, Hotel Miramar, on TUESDAY, the 12th February, 1918, at 12 o'clock NOON, for the purpose of receiving a Report of the Directors, together with a Statement of Accounts, declaring a Dividend and electing Directors and Auditors. The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 4th to 11th February, 1918, both days inclusive. By Order of the Board of Directors: JOHN ARNOLD, Secretary, Hongkong, 10th January, 1918.

Do You Suffer from any SKIN OR BLOOD DISEASE

composed of ingredients which quickly attack, overcome, and expel from the blood all impurities (from whatever cause arising), and by restoring it clean and pure can be relied on to effect a complete and lasting cure.

THE TRUE VALUE OF Clarke's Blood Mixture is certified by a most remarkable collection of unimpeachable testimonials from grateful patients of all classes—patients who have been cured after trying many other treatments without success. The purest blood is the basis of all health.

Clarke's Blood Mixture

WILL CURE YOU PERMANENTLY

WATSON'S COMPOUND BALSAM OF ANISEED

Gives immediate relief in all cases of
COUGH.

Price
50 cents and \$1.00
per bottle.

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A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.,
HONGKONG DISPENSARY.
Telephone 16.

Correspondents are requested to observe the rules which require them to forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of their bona fides. All communications intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor. Business correspondence should be sent to the Manager.

The rates of Subscription to the "Hongkong Telegraph" will be as follows:—Daily issue—\$36 per annum. Weekly issue—\$13 per annum. The rates per quarter and per month, proportional. Subscriptions for any period less than one month will be charged as for a full month. The daily issue is delivered free when the addressee is accessible to messenger. Peak subscribers can have their copies delivered at their residences without any extra charge. On copies sent by post an additional \$1.80 per quarter is charged for postage. The postage on the weekly issue to any part of the world is \$1.00 per quarter. Single Copies, Daily, ten cents. Weekly, twenty-five cents (for cash only). Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until countermanded. (Payable in Advance.) The "Hongkong Telegraph" is now on sale at, and will be delivered to subscribers by, the Dairy Farm Company, Ltd., Shamshien, Canton, who have been appointed our agents there. By Order, "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1918.

WHAT DO THE GERMAN STRIKES SIGNIFY?

With regard to a land like Germany, whose people long ago sold themselves body and soul to a mere handful of super-arrogant Prussians, it is necessary to be wary before drawing definite conclusions as to what emanates, "semi-officially" or otherwise, from Berlin. There seems to be no doubt, however, that the strikes about which we have been reading so much of late have been of a serious character. Even a worm will turn against its persecutor, and therefore in Berlin, where organised Socialism has been long in evidence—at least theoretically—it should not be a matter for astonishment that, given a favourable opportunity and goaded sufficiently by economic worries, at least the more desperate of the wage-earning classes should kick over the traces. Politically, the Germans are at least one hundred years behind the free and enlightened democracies of America, the British Empire and France. They are today, in fact, what they have always been, a nation in bondage to the Hohenzollerns and Prussian Junkerdom generally. Such is the nation that aspires to dominate the world in the twentieth century, its only qualification being that it studied the barbarous art of war, while all enlightened nations were doing their utmost to forget it and to turn their thoughts in the direction of something more ennobling to the masses generally.

The strikes in Berlin and elsewhere, even though they do not seem to amount to much in the results attained, certainly indicate a manliness that is somewhat surprising, and which may, even yet, given the right directive force, lead to results that might go at least some way towards removing the haughtiness of the Hohenzollerns and the absurd claims of the Junkers. So far as can be gathered from the telegrams, the recent strikes in various parts of Germany signify chiefly that poverty is making itself more than ever manifest in consequence of the blockade and that hunger is proving more potent than patriotism. Or can it possibly be the case, that the Germans are at last awakening to the absurdity of being led like so many sheep to the slaughter to feed the vanity of a pampered class which arrogantly looks upon Germany's tolling masses as so much "cannon fodder"?

The latest news regarding the strikes is somewhat conflicting. The notorious *Fremdenblatt*, which at one time was wont to print the most scurrilous statements regarding England, but which to-day appears to have acquired a praiseworthy mildness—owing perhaps to the fact that it is published in the decayed port of Hamburg—says that strikes have broken out in all the industrial works at Lubek, while other German papers report that strikes have ended at Cologne, Cassel, Breslau, Leipzig and Ludwigshafen, but have extended to Dresden. Both in Berlin and other cities the activities of the strikers, which seem, in many cases and for some unaccountable reason, to be specially directed towards manning tramway cars, have been sharply repressed by the police, and in some cases troops have been called out. The whole affair seems a sorry business. On the one side we have a body of workmen, evidently goaded to action by the daily-growing certainty that defeat for them is inevitable and that the sooner they do something towards bringing about peace the better it will be for their country, while, on the other hand, we have German officialdom playing the part, as

A Piece of Pettiness.

When a newspaper publishes official questions of which notice has been given by a member of the Legislative Council or the Sanitary Board, it is customary to reproduce such queries in extenso. That, however, is apparently not the rule, followed in the office of our morning contemporary, the *Daily Press*. Yesterday that journal gave publicity to four questions which are to be asked at this afternoon's Sanitary Board meeting. The last of the series deals with "the foul-smelling pullah in Glenalee," and it terminates in these words: "This matter was raised by me last year and subsequently at various times by the *Hongkong Telegraph*." Our contemporary, however, entirely omits this sentence when publishing the query. The reason, of course, is obvious—the *Daily Press* seeks to hide the fact that any comment of ours has been instrumental in getting the matter brought officially to the notice of the Sanitary Board. A more petty or small-minded piece of jealousy we have not encountered for many a day. Happily, however, the *Telegraph* has by this time so well established itself that it can well do without anything in the nature of a free advertisement from the *Daily Press* or anyone else. It would be as well to point out, however, "in the interests of historical accuracy," that the question as published by our contemporary is quite incomplete.

The Supreme War Council.

The meetings at Versailles of the Allied Supreme War Council seem to have been of an extremely important character, judging by the subjects that were discussed. The most important point to be noted is that "it was decided that our immediate task is a most vigorous prosecution of the war until a change in the enemy's temper justifies the hope of peace on terms not involving the abandonment of freedom and justice in the face of an aggressive and unrepentant militarism." Only the most impossible of that impossible breed of invertebrate and weak-kneed tribe of molly-coddles, known as the peace-at-any-price persons, could cavil against the sanity of this decision, which is, unquestionably, the soundest that could be arrived at in the circumstances. "Careful consideration" was also given to the recent speeches of Count Hertling and Count Cernin. Both were "found wanting," or, in the choice diction of the telegram, the Council "were unable to find an approximation to the moderate condition laid down by the Allies." Very properly therefore both speeches were "torn down." It is stated that regarding the question of the appointment of a Generalissimo, an official proposal has as yet been put forward. Perhaps it is just as well, for it is not improbable that such an office would be beyond the capacity of any one man. The Supreme War Council seems to fulfil the necessary functions; and, if co-ordination be brought to a fine point, the desired object should be achieved without resorting to great power and so wide a responsibility in any one man. It is a job for a Napoleon, and with all respect to the generals on both sides there does not appear to be one approaching the mighty Bonaparte either in genius or initiative.

TRAMWAY RETURNS.

The following is the approximate statement of the Hongkong Tramway Company's traffic receipts for the week ending February 2nd, 1918:—

	Receipts for week	Aggregate Receipts for 4 weeks
This Year: ...	\$12,904	61,108
Last Year: ...	13,428	69,098
Increase: ...	522	7,990

Siam and The War.

Siam has decided to dispatch part of the Royal Guard Sharpshooters to the European front. The men of the other branches of arms, wishing to take the field, are strenuously carrying on a movement for raising the

DAY BY DAY.

THERE IS NO LAW OF RIGHT WHICH CONSECRATES DULNESS.—Buckin.

To-morrow's Anniversary. To-morrow is the third anniversary of the decision by the Allied Financial Conference for the pooling of the resources of Britain, France and Russia.

The Dollar. The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 2s. 11.7/8d.

Macao Carnival. A carnival and Battle of Flowers will be held at Macao on the 10th inst., to be followed at night by a distribution of prizes and a concert.

Mrs. Martin-Egan. Mrs. Martin-Egan, correspondent of the *New York Saturday Evening Post*, is a guest at Government House.

Opium Possession. A Chinese was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, with being a possessor of 30 taels of opium. A fine of \$1,500 was imposed.

Poisoned Food? Three Chinese hawkers, after eating a meal yesterday, were taken ill. One of them was conveyed to the Government Civil Hospital and another subsequently died at home. It is assumed that the food they had been eating was poisoned.

Begging from Europeans. A Chinese beggar was charged before Mr. A. Dyer Ball, at the Police Court this morning. It was stated that the man was standing by the Hongkong Hotel and begging from European ladies. A fine of \$5, or, in default, 14 days' hard labour, was imposed.

Alleged Theft of Bangles. A woman was charged at the Police Court this morning, before Mr. J. R. Wood, with stealing two gold bangles. Inspector Sim said defendant stole the bangles in October last year, and was traced to Macao, where she was found wearing the bangles. The case was adjourned.

Chair Coolies at Variance. Two chair coolies were charged before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, with assaulting another chairman. Inspector MacDonald said there had been a lot of quarrelling going on, in consequence of these men, with others, coming down from their stand in Queen's Road to Queens Road. His Worship fined each man \$10.

The Colony's Health. During last week there were notified in the Colony six cases of diphtheria (one Portuguese and the rest Chinese), six cases of enteric fever (two British, two Chinese and the rest Dutch), and two occurrences of small-pox (both Chinese). Two each of the diphtheria and enteric cases terminated fatally, as also did one case of small-pox.

Well-known Veterinary Surgeon. Mr. G. J. Harvey, M.R.C.V.S., F.V.M.A., the well-known veterinary surgeon of Bangkok, is passing through the Colony on his way home, having been granted a commission in the army Veterinary Department. He has been veterinary surgeon to the Thai Club and Sports Club at Bangkok for several years, his advice being of great value to race owners. He is staying at the Astor House Hotel.

Good Friday Music. Mr. Denman Fuller hopes to give a selection from the "Elphinstone" on the Cathedral on Good Friday, when a collection will be made in aid of certain War Funds. Practices will be held in the Cathedral on Thursday, commencing on February 14, at 8 p.m. and Mr. Fuller will be glad to hear from any willing to assist, as soon as possible. The selection to be given comprises several numbers not given last year.

Kowloon "Our Day." A sum of \$11,000, an instalment of the net proceeds of the Fair, sales of badges and raffia, has already been paid in to the Hon. Treasurer of the War Charities Committee. A detailed balance sheet will be issued shortly, as soon as a few outstanding bills have been settled and cashed.

The Affair for the street pianos organ had to be cancelled owing to lack of support. Holders of tickets can get their money refunded, on application to Mr. D. Harvey. Refunds should be made before the closing of the season.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(The opinions expressed by correspondents are not necessarily those of the "Hongkong Telegraph.")

THE GREAT DAMN.

(To the Editor of the "Hongkong Telegraph.")

Sir,—This stone was laid by H. E. Sir Henry May, K.O.M.G., I.L.D., on the 2nd day of February, 1918, to commemorate the completion of the Tai Tam Tuck Reservoir. Doubtless the formal ceremony of laying the completion stone of the now famous Tai Tam Tuck Reservoir was both interesting and edifying, and the community of this Island of Fragrant Streams will now rest in supreme contentment of an assured plenty of one of God's greatest gifts, indeed the greatest staff of life. It should be a matter of great public rejoicing that at last, though tardily, this great public work is completed. It would have seemed very befitting had there been a well organised public gathering to celebrate this unique event. Had the general public been specially invited and assured that their presence was desired, many hundreds of residents would gladly have assisted to acclaim the successful completion of this work. At home it is certain that this would have been the case, and even, if permitted, the great local body of Freemasons would have added a genuine touch of realism and edification to the ceremony. But, what do we find, as is usual and customary in this officially-governed Crown Colony, the ceremony was characterised by the all pervading presence of the Colony's public officials, only. This is not all.

The history and statistics given by the Hon. the Director of Public Works concerning the Colony's water supply were doubtless interesting for the moment, and a very necessary padding for a speech, the main theme of which concerns so distasteful (sic) a subject as war. However, in the speech of His Excellency the Governor, I think the public would have liked to have listened to a discourse more edifying and elevating, than to have been regaled with facts concerning the abuse of alcohol by the under classes of the Hongkong Civil Service; and their general condemnation. In the estimation of the Hongkong Public it cannot but be thought that this indeed made the occasion for the opening of a Great Dam, with which the Ostia Water-gate into insignificance. The remarks of His Excellency doubtless relate to facts, but I think the time and occasion were most inopportune and ill-considered. Having lived for the period of three generations in Hongkong, I can speak from no little experience of general matters; and especially concerning the ranks of the Civil Service, lower and upper; as well as of all classes of the commercial community. Comparing the present times with many years ago, one cannot fail to notice an improvement in the sobriety of all classes of the community; but years ago, the conditions that then obtained, especially for those of the lower ranks, were far more unfavourable. Diseases were rampant and their causes and origin unknown, housing accommodation for the lower classes was poor and their pay generally was small and inadequate. During times of disease and trouble, the lower ranks of the public services, police, sanitary officials and the like, have been called upon to perform almost superhuman tasks and with a great measure of success; but unhappily with very little credit and thanks. It has been then that the lower hard-worked official has been only too ready and forced to sustain his strength by stimulants; and many an arduous task performed has only been accomplished by the devotion of the men of the lower rank and at the expense of much of their maintained vigour. In some cases by the use of stimulants, and the use of stimulants, the experience generally of these men has been one of work, little recreation, poor housing and not too good living for this climate, engendering a perpetual tired feeling. The consequences, these

GOLF COMPETITIONS.

Arrangements for the Chinese New Year Holiday.

It is announced that special competitions have been arranged at Fanning for the Chinese New Year Holiday. For the Bankers' Cup there is to be a bogey competition for men, while there will also be Mixed Foursomes. The entrance fees for both Competitions are to be given to War Charities, while first and second prizes have been presented.

The Captain's Cup for 1917 was won by Mr. R. J. Birbeck, who beat Mr. W. D. Kraft in the final on Sunday last, 3 up and 2 to play.

The Christmas Mixed Foursome Competition was finally decided on Saturday, and resulted in Mr. Draper and Mr. Evans winning the first prize and Miss Gordon and Mr. Balmer Johnson the second.

Medals for the monthly winners of the Captain's Cup in 1917 had to be had on application to the No. 1 Boy, at Happy Valley.

HOW THE KAISER PLANNED THE WAR.

Date Fixed in Berlin Early in July 1914.

New York, Oct. 14.—Mr. Henry Morgenthau, former American Ambassador to Turkey, has a remarkable article in this morning's *World* on the deliberate planning of the war in advance. He describes how Baron Wangenheim, the German Ambassador at Constantinople, stated by the escapes of the warships Goeben and Breslau, which was heralded by wireless, told him that a conference was held in Berlin in the early part of July 1914, at which the date of the war was fixed.

This conference was presided over by the Kaiser. Wangenheim was present to report on conditions in Turkey. Moltke, Chief of the German Staff, and von Tirpitz were also present, and with them were the leaders of German finance, directors of railroads and captains of industry, whose aid was essential to the Kaiser in putting his vast military machine into operation. Each was asked if he was ready for war. All replied in the affirmative, except the financiers, who insisted that they must have two weeks in which to sell foreign securities and arrange their loans.

Morgenthau shows how the Kaiser then went to Norway on holiday to avoid raising the suspicion of foreign diplomats.

From the date of this conference the German financiers were busy with their part, while the army marked time. All the great stock exchanges experienced acute financial depression, as German-owned stocks were quietly pushed into the market. In New York, as I found afterwards, there were astonishing slumps in quotations.

Not has this obtained only amongst the lower rank of the Civil Service. The condition of men of the lower ranks in commercial spheres has been quite on a par, and those whose experience carries them over many years, and who may have been "through the mill," will readily endorse the fact.

Conditions at the present are happily greatly improved, and this to a great extent is responsible for a considerable amelioration if the evil referred to by His Excellency.

Improved conditions, and greater solicitude for the welfare of lower ranks, by the "upper" officials and taxpayers will, I am sure, be more conducive to the interests of the Civil Service, and all ranks of the Colony, than the "female suffrage" as a duty. The experience generally of these men has been one of work, little recreation, poor housing and not too good living for this climate, engendering a perpetual tired feeling. The consequences, these

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANEOUS.

It was Mr. Winston Churchill's birthday on November 3; he is still only 49. It is not very easy to find a life so full of activities, and so distinguished, and so short. He has been a respondent and a prisoner; he has written a novel, a historical biography, and an excellent military book; he fought in four continents; there had been any fight Australia, Mr. Churchill has been there. He has been a Conservative and a Liberal; he controlled already that office of State; and his—jolly or unjolly—has been a household word in almost every household in the street, the fall of Antwerp the tragedy of Gallipoli.

It is always rather won't to me (says a correspondent, a Home paper) that then so relatively little to show all this fever of activity. I am blaming Mr. Churchill is largely, I think, the pervy things have gone. It does seem as though the more you try to do the more it is really done. There was an old doctor years ago, circumstances but great repulse the Lancashire town in which he was born. As he sat at his door day a young rival drove in his trap drawn by a very fine and costly horse. The old man said to him: "What is it?" "Other, stopping." "Nay," this rival, "I was only thinking I make more money in sitting here quiet than you in a month driving about the town behind your fine horse."

M. Asquith joins a list of other eminent British politicians who have earned the £23,000 as Romanes Lecturers. Balfour, Lord Morley, Lord Curzon, Lord Bryce, and Lord Rosebery have all been Romanes Lecturers there over—Mr. Gladstone, Huxley, Holms Hunt, Sir W. M. Ramsay, and Mr. Rosewell are among the other names. The lecture may be on any subject except religion and politics, and the lecturer may be of any nationality. Dr. Romanes himself was a Canadian, a friend and energetic supporter of Darwin's. For the greater of his life he was an Agnostic, but he died an extreme High Churchman. There was some difficulty in persuading Gladstone to deliver the first lecture 25 years ago. He was ill at the time at Biarritz, and only yielded to the earnest entreaties of Romanes himself. It was on this occasion that he wrote, "Oxford is Oxford, and I think if I desired me to climb the spire of Salisbury I should attempt it." Romanes, curiously, was a Cambridge man.

Sir Alfred Mond announces in "Hansard" that a Library of War Literature is being established in connection with the Imperial War Museum. A sum of \$5,000 has been allocated for the purpose, but only \$100 has yet been spent. It seems that a large amount of books, journals, posters, and "other cognate matters" are being received from Government Departments, as well as from publishers and private persons. There are a librarian and three women clerks. One wonders will there be a censor too?

Zigzag in Egypt, in deciding to erect a statue to the famous French aviator, Guyotier is following the example set two years before the war by the Egyptian Aerial League, which put up a statue to Louis Mouillard, one of the pioneers of aviation, and also a Frenchman. Mouillard never succeeded in flying himself, but it was his work, published in 1883, in the hope that persons with sufficient money would carry out practical experiments that was the foundation of the Wrights' early success in aviation. Mouillard died in 1891, and his statue was erected in 1892. The Egyptian Aerial League, which put up a statue to Louis Mouillard, one of the pioneers of aviation, and also a Frenchman. Mouillard never succeeded in flying himself, but it was his work, published in 1883, in the hope that persons with sufficient money would carry out practical experiments that was the foundation of the Wrights' early success in aviation. Mouillard died in 1891, and his statue was erected in 1892.

three Divisions) two, consisting of newly-admitted boys, showed very good results in all subjects. Class 8 was very good, although there was a tendency to weakness in arithmetic. The Beginners' Class (taught in three Divisions.) Excellent results were shown in these Classes, where English is taught with great success. The members of the Education Committee paid several visits to the school during April and May, and expressed great satisfaction with the work done. Mr. Ponsonby Fane, one of the members, wrote: "The relations of the Headmaster and scholars appeared to be peculiarly happy at Saiyungpoo School." The names of three old pupils appear in recent University Lists, one as having passed the Matriculation Examination and two as having qualified for the Medical Faculty. The "social" life of the school has been well maintained. Chess has been in the charge of Mr. Bay, who has raised the players to a high state of efficiency. The School Team won the Hongkong Schools Chess League Shield, which was presented by the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K. C., at a function in July. The Library, recently enlarged, now contains about 500 volumes and is well patronized. Funds for the additional books and the School Bagle Band were subscribed by a number of Chinese gentlemen. The Bagle Band, attached to the Saiyungpoo Division of St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Division, consisting of past and present pupils, supported financially by Mr. Kom-long, is thoroughly efficient and is furnished with the latest equipment. At the annual competition "Flag Day" the Division came second, out of five competing. During the epidemic in the year, the

portion of their vacation and vaccinated no fewer than 12,662 cases. The Division, now attached as a Voluntary Aid Detachment to the Defence Corps, has also attended Field Days and Mobilization, Guards of Honour, and the Defence Corps Camp, as well as providing half the composite Division sent to Canton on the invitation of H. E. the Governor of Canton, for instructional purposes. On "Our Day," boys from this School sold roses in aid of the Red Cross Funds, and handed in the sum \$385.85. A Chinese Band has been formed and has become very popular, its services being frequently requisitioned at public functions and entertainments. Football and Volley-ball continue to flourish. Swimming is indulged in throughout the summer; twice a week the boys go out in steam-launches to Stonecutters. It is noteworthy that a large number of boys even in the lower classes are now able to swim, and at the annual Ambulance Brigade sports the Saiyungpun Division carried off one championships. The usual picnics and excursions were held. The Literature on the War supplied by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce has been distributed to the pupils and the pictures displayed for general information. In September, Mr. Mok-sang presented to the School two Scholarships, each of the value of \$20 for one year, for Classes 7 and 8 respectively. Our thanks are due to Sir Ellis Kadoorie, Dr. Wan Man-kei, Messrs. Li Hi-sen, Kwok Sailer, Chan Tse-tan, Wong Kam-fuk, Chan U-to, Ho Leung Lo Shiu-wan, Ohoy Hing, Ip Sze-ohi and the Sun Co., for donations to Library and Bagle Bank and to the following subscribers to the Prize Fund:—Sir Robert Lady Ho Tung, Hon. Mr. Lau Che-pak, Hon. Mr. Ho Fook, Messrs. L Shun-wan, Cheung Kun-shing, Wong Kam-fuk, Cheung I-sang, Ko Wan-t'um, Chan Kai-ming, Ip Sau chi, Ho Ia, Ho Leung, Hing, Ho Ki, Ho Kwong, E. Shai-wa, Lo Cheung-shi, E. Shai-kit, Li Po-kwai, M. K. L. Simon Tse-yan, Ohoy Cheung Pang Lim-cho, Li Ping, Lau Cho sun, Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Kotewall, as well as to Messrs. Kelly and Welsh, Lieut. White Stevens and Mr. Ray for other prizes. For flags we are indebted to commander Beckwith and Messrs. A. Lung, for palms the Botanical and Forestry Departments and for chairs to the University.

The Prize List.

The prizes included the following—

Scholarships.—From Class 4 to Queen's College.—1, Haw Cheuk-ling; 2, Wong Tai-kwan; 3, Lo Hing-kan; 4, Leung Oi-sang; 5, Chan Wai-chang; 6, Ua Kwai-yung. Class 5.—1, Tam Wai-hin (Government Free Scholar); 2, Wong Pak-hing (Hok Kow-tong Scholar). Class 6.—1, Ling Hang-to (Government Free Scholar); 2, Chan Man-chau (Ralphs Scholar). Class 7.—Li Tai-cho (Government Free Scholar). Class 8.—Wong Kam-tai (Government Free Scholar).

Special Prizes.—Class 5 (English), Chan Kan-cho. Chess Prizes, (Old Boys), Chan Po-ming; (Present Boys) Li Kwong. Sports Prizes, (Old Boys). Football, Leung Oi-sang; Volley Ball, Au Kwong-lai; (Present Boys), Football, Wai Man-kit. Blackboard Drawing, Lau Im—Pencil and Brush Drawing, Class 4, Ng Wai-pun; Class 5, Chan I-chau; Class 6, Chan Pao; Class 6B, Li Tai-cho; Class 7, Li Chang-in. Hand-writing, Wong Win-tou. Recitation, Fong Yam-leung, Choi Fuk-pang, Fok Wing-Kin, Choi Fuk-hoi.

There were also many winners of class prizes, attendance medals and first-aid certificates.

The Hon. Mr. Claud Severn, in presenting the awards, said that this was the first time that he had been asked to present the prizes at the Seiyungpun School, but he had often heard and read of the great efficiency of the school and he looked forward very much to be present when he received Mr. Morris' invitation. He was glad to see Mr. Ho Kow-tong there that morning. He was a great benefactor and had always taken a great interest and he had on occasions presented the prizes to the boys. From the moment Mr. Severn could see that Mr. Ho Kow-tong was

Korand. and Nevand. One
 Mile. Last three quarters.—34 2/5;
 1.10; 1.46.2/5; and 1.43.
 Anticipation. Three quarters.
 —35; 19; 1.41.
 Osdow's Wait. Three quarters.
 —42.2/5; 1.16; 1.47.1/5.
 Dividend. Three quarters.—
 37.5/5; 1.13.1/5; 1.43.
 Maraz. Three quarters.—35
 1.8; 1.41.
 Hired and Fraud. One Mile.
 Last three quarters.—36; 1.11
 1.45.3/5.
 Hagrin. Three quarters.—41.
 1.15; 1.45.3/5.
 Year. Three quarters.—36.2/5
 1.12.5/5; 1.46.
 Samand and Second Violin
 One Mile. Last three quarters.—
 34.4/5; 1.9.1/5; 1.44.1/5.

6,
1,

yingpun School was deservedly popular among the Chinese. The site was cramped, but it was wonderful what a great amount of work was got through. The Chinese were fond of the school was shown by their appreciation of the teaching, and by the fact that no less than 89 boys never missed an attendance throughout the year. It was a happy idea to give those boys who attended regularly and punctually a small token. The school was especially fortunate in having the continuous guidance of Mr. and Mrs. Morris. Their careful and sympathetic work had had wonderful results. A good deal of assistance had been rendered by Mr. Ray, who had done much for the social side of the school and especially with regard to the Saisjyapun Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. Mention

Amusement brought to the fore-
made in the report of the very
good work the Division rendered
during the small-pox epidemic,
and he could assure them
that they had the Government's
grateful thanks for what they
had done. Mr. Ho Koming, he
ought to mention, entirely ap-
ported the Saiyungpan Division.
They would all be glad that they
had Sir Charles Eliot with them.
He was on the look-out for
undergraduate from the school
and from his position on the bill-
he overlooked them; and he was
sure took a great deal of interest
in the work that they did.

Three hearty cheers were given
for the Hon. Mr. Alfred Sweeney,
the others, and Mr. and Mrs.

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"If the Bulgarians remain on the defensive their lines are so strong that Sarrajl cannot break through. After the declaration of war by Greece, however, it may be that the Bulgarians will undertake a mighty assault against the army composed of English, Serbians, Russians and Italians. Then the watchword will be Salonica.—Reuter.

Hongkong. 5th February, 1918

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FROM THE PULPIT.

The Guest at Midnight

Notes of a sermon by the Rev. J. Kirk Macdonald at Union Church on Sunday morning:—

"Friend, lend me three leaves; for a friend of mine is come unto me in his journey, and I have nothing to set before him."—Luke X. 6.

It speaks well for human nature that so many people who would neither beg nor borrow for themselves would not hesitate to do either for others, and that persistently, showing small consideration for either your purse or your convenience. They are like the man in this parable, almost humorously pathetic, who went rattling at his neighbour's door at an unseasonable hour because a friend had arrived unexpectedly and the larder was empty. We scarcely give this man due credit in our thoughts about his troublesome proceedings. We dwell on his impudence and unseasonableness, but overlook the plight he was in. We are sorry for the household roused out of its beauty sleep to do what few neighbours care much about doing at any time,—lend to the people next door.

But it was the other family which had been knocked up to take in the traveller and entertain him, which is a much bigger thing than simply giving the loan of a loaf or two. I commend this point of view to you next time you are inclined to be impatient of some appeal. You would like to be left alone? The neighbour who comes worrying you would like it much more. Does any body like making himself a nuisance? Does anybody enjoy standing outside in the cold and dark, rousing up sleepy and reluctant neighbours? Consider how urgent would be the occasion which would induce you to expose yourself to what you would get in the like circumstances, and realise that after all it is a small thing you are asked to do compared with the task which the other man has to take up. "A friend of mine is come unto me in his journey"—life makes constant demands on us all, many of them unexpected, like this midnight arrival, and we must do our best to help one another to meet them, and do it with a good grace, unlike this sleepy, early neighbour behind his closed door.

Now here to-day is a special appeal to us for the Bible Society. A few weeks ago there was an extra-special for prisoners of war, presently it will be Missions, and soon, after, no doubt something else. All the time you have the recurrent call of the war charities so misnamed; is short people's hands are never out of their pockets, as we say. Well, if agents and organisers trouble us about these things they all experience very much more trouble themselves. It is the hospital boards who have to take in sufferers and take care of them. It is the Boards of Governors who have to provide for the Bible Society, and are responsible for seeing that the Mission work goes on all the year round which we hear of only now and then. It is the men and women who run the orphanages at whose doors the destitute are lain, whether there is room for them or not. It is the Missionaries in the field who have to turn away requests for teachers, doctors, works of all kinds from waiting towns and tribes. So I, being the man who knocks you up ultimately to listen to their requests, ask you to put yourselves in the place of those who have either to take the travellers in and entertain them, or else shut their doors and send them away hungry. It is not for themselves that the workers are charged with these responsibilities, ask ought of us, and it is in the name of One whom perhaps he and she shall hear say to us, "I was a stranger, and ye took Me in."

"Have nothing to set before him." What a dilemma is this of the empty cupboard. The man must either be put to shame for his emptiness, or put his pride in one pocket and his sensitiveness in another and let the neighbour know of his distress. "Because of his importunity," we read, he gets his way at last.

Literally the word is "shamelessness."

"Are not ashamed, to come disturbing decent folk at this time of night?" He certainly is, but much more still is he ashamed of the indigence and want which interfere with his hospitality, which the neighbour did not suspect perhaps till this sudden call revealed it. The family might go hungry itself and be too proud to let it be known, but now the traveller has arrived, exhausted, weary, and the tale comes out. Well, the Lord in all manner of ways makes use of the emptiness and poverty of His servants to stir them up to more difficult and more fruitful lines of action than simply doing all the work themselves and defraying all its charges. Impunity is a child of necessity, and plays a helpful part in the Christian economy, both in things material and things spiritual. In the parable one man's need calls out another's charity, and, though it was somewhat grudging, he would be the better for the exercise of it, for kindness like other qualities is partly a matter of practice. If the willing workers and givers were able to do everything by themselves the rest who need to be awakened up and shaken up would never do anything. Some of the most generous people are among the poorest, and the circumstances works out to advantage, for their hearts are so much bigger than their purses that they overcome all their natural reluctance and knock at other people's doors till they get what the Lord has need of, which is good for the cause, and also for the "other people." Never be ashamed to beg for a good work. You may get rebuffs, but that won't kill, and the people who rebuff you will live to thank you. On every hand it may be seen that good works are straitened for want of means. Fabulous sums are spent on luxury and enjoyment, but there is scarcely a philanthropy or a social effort or a Christian enterprise which is not more or less chronically in want. People are wide enough awake to their personal interests and gratification, but for everything else are apt to be sleepy and inaccessible. The more need to stir them out of sheer forgetfulness. All this forces us back, and is intended to go so, upon something which goes a great deal deeper than the ground I have touched on so far. They force us back upon what is always the great weapon of the Church and the Christian, which is prayer. This, of course, is the real point of the parable, which is just a very simple lesson to the Lord's disciples at an elementary stage upon the efficacy of prayer. The teaching is that, if in common life we obtain what we persist in seeking, even from a vexed and charitable neighbour roused out of sleep, much more shall we receive answers from the gracious God who never slumbers, but who rather stirs ourselves up to ask for Him. In very special is this so when our asking is that we may meet a call which He Himself has sent us. People are afraid, not without reason, of being selfish in prayer, but there is at any rate no asking amiss if one asks for what is needed to set before the friend sent to one's door while on his journey. That is a thing which God teaches us through the chronic insufficiency of resources which besets His work in our hands. What we need most is to understand that it is Himself who must supply all our lack out of the riches of His grace in Christ; that, whatever forms both the lack and the supply may assume, the work and the means of maintaining it must be transmutations of that energy which is only to be found in the heavenly storehouse. Claims in excess of resources press upon all willing shoulders to-day. Will the pressure suffice to force the Church to prayer? It is not wrong to be poor; it is seldom even a misfortune. The misfortune is to be poor and not know it. "Because thou sayest, I am rich and increased in goods, and have need of nothing, and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked; I counsel thee to buy of Me gold, refined by fire, that thou mayest become rich." That is the

BOLO'S GOLD.

Singer's Story of a Bag Containing £80,000.

Paris, Oct. 14.—An Italian singing professor, Signor Sotolana, has come forward with more details concerning Bolo's financial dealings. His story has been added to the evidence taken by Captain Bouchardon, the magistrate investigating.

Signor Sotolana, who was one of the artists engaged for the Italian season at the Theatre Sarah Bernhardt 12 years ago, was an acquaintance of Cavallini, the man said to have served as intermediary between Bolo and the ex-Khedive Abbas Hilmi. On April 1, 1915, Signor Sotolana received a message from Cavallini, who had just arrived in Paris, making an appointment with him.

A few hours later the two men met on the Boulevards, and after buying a leather bag, went to the Credit Lyonnais, where Cavallini cashed a cheque for £40,000. The sum was paid in banknotes, which Cavallini put into the bag, together with ten more bundles of £4,000 each, with which his pockets were stuffed.

Then with the £80,000 Cavallini and his companion took a cab to an hotel in the Place Vendôme. "When I come back my bag will have been emptied of its £80,000," exclaimed Cavallini before entering the hotel.

Twenty minutes later he returned in company with a tall man with a dark moustache, whom he introduced as Bolo Pasha. Bolo requested Cavallini to give 100fr. (£4 odd) to his friend for accompanying him, and the men then separated.

It is reported that Bolo had large sums invested in French munition factories. The *Oeuvre* asks if he had not money in a big aeroplane motor factory.

According to the *Matin* Signor Sotolana was asked by Bolo to sing at the latter's home, and some time afterwards the Pasha tried to induce him to sign a telegram written in code, addressed to a former Italian deputy named Drancardi. The baritone refused, but kept a copy of the telegram, which is now in Captain Bouchardon's hands.

basis on which the Lord has transaction with His poor Church, ignorant of its need. Yes, I think all these claims, which are more than we can meet, should surely lead Christ's people to do something better than just complain of them, or tell the responsible workers and agencies to retrench when the call all around is for advance. "A friend of mine is come unto me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him."—You who have a needy cause at heart, have you tried that plea with God about it? George Muller fed his hundreds of orphans by it, clothed and housed them too, and if your work is indeed the Lord's you might surely put Him on your finance committee. If it is money that is needed He can send you that; if it is workers you have the best of precedents for praying the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth labourers. And as regards the grace and fitness which we need in ourselves, every one of us, do we persist in putting in this plea: "Lord I am empty and poor, I have no wealth of soul to give away; I have a class to meet this afternoon, and nothing to bring to them, a congregation to face on Sunday, and only Thyself knowest how unfit I feel to cross the vestry door; neighbours look to me, children, acquaintances and my cupboard contains not a spare crumb; feed Thou me with bread of life, teach me that I may speak the word of comfort, enrich me with the spirit of the Master that I may have wherewith to entertain the traveller at my door, to succour the wounded by the wayside, to be of some use, some avail to others in return for all I have had of them and of Thee?" Do we indeed give such a burden to our prayer? If so it will not be in vain.

COMPANY MEETING.

The Union Waterboat Co., Ltd.

(YEABATTING)

The thirtieth ordinary annual meeting of shareholders of the Union Waterboat Company, Ltd., was held at the offices of Messrs. Dodwell and Company this morning. Mr. S. H. Dodwell presided, and there were also present Messrs. R. G. Shewan, A. O. Lang, A. H. Skelton and J. Jonckheer (Consulting Committee), Mr. G. Morton Smith (Secretary), and Messrs. G. R. Edwards, T. G. Nixon, M. S. Northcote, F. P. de V. Soares and V. Kara, (shareholders).

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—as it is past the hour for some time, I propose with your permission to take them as read. The profit on trading for the year amounts to \$34,492.93, some \$2,900 less than last year, which, in view of the comparatively large withdrawal of British shipping from the China Coast, and the enhanced cost of coal, must I think be considered as satisfactory. During the year, the reduction of capital suggested at our last annual meeting has been carried out, and \$3 per share has been returned to shareholders. In order the make this return, the sale of some of your investments has been necessary, and consequently dividends from investments are smaller than last year; which year, you will remember, also benefited by the profit on the sale of two of the old boats. The amount therefore available for distribution is \$50,403.75, as against \$59,375.86 in 1916, and I trust you will approve of the allocation recommended in the report. You will have noticed the somewhat large amount of \$7,000 to be written off in respect to bring them down to the market value on 31st December. I would explain that your investments are in first-class local Public Companies, but as the market price has been affected by the present abnormally high rate of exchange, it is necessary to make this provision. Your property has, as usual, been well kept up out of current revenue. With those few remarks, gentlemen, I beg to propose the adoption of the report and accounts as circulated.

Mr. Shewan:—I have much pleasure in seconding that.

The Chairman:—The adoption of the report and accounts has been proposed by myself and seconded by Mr. Shewan and is now before the meeting for discussion. There being no questions, gentlemen, I will put the resolution to the meeting. Those in favour kindly signify by holding up their hands. Those against? Carried unanimously. The only other business is the election of auditors.

Mr. Edwards:—I beg to propose the re-election of Mr. Bernard Brown as auditor for the ensuing year at a remuneration of \$200.

Mr. Nixon:—I beg to second that.

The Chairman:—The re-election of Mr. Bernard Brown as auditor for the ensuing year at a remuneration of \$200 has been proposed by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Nixon. Those in favour please signify. Those against? Carried unanimously. That is all the business, gentlemen; thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants are now ready and can be had on application.

Japanese Shanghai Exchange.

The Japanese Government has granted permission to open an Exchange in Shanghai for dealing in currencies, raw cotton and other yarn. The promoters include prominent businessmen of Osaka, and the capital will be ¥10,000,000. The Exchange building will be situated in the Shanghai Concession.

GERMAN DISASTER.

Total Destruction of Huge Munition Works.

From a well-informed source (says the *Daily Telegraph* of December 11) we have received interesting particulars of the great explosion of Nov. 22, by which the large chemical factory of Griseheim-Elektron, near Frankfurt, was destroyed. No details were obtainable at that time, and no great attention was paid to the report in this country, no doubt from desire to avoid exaggeration of what might, after all, prove to have been an affair of no great importance. But the extreme care taken to prevent fuller accounts from leaking out from Germany, and the enforced silence of the German Press on the subject, are the best proof of the German Government's anxiety to conceal a very serious loss. The first telegram which managed to escape from Frankfurt made a significant admission, which the subsequent silence only confirms. It announced that the excitement in Frankfurt caused by the explosion was tremendous. Information which has since been obtained from perfectly trustworthy sources makes it clear that there was good reason for excitement. For it is now certain that the explosion caused the complete destruction of one of the greatest munition factories in the world, by which Germany has suffered a disaster comparable to a very serious military defeat in its effect on the issue of the war. Under these circumstances it is a matter of supreme interest to understand precisely to what extent German military equipment was dependent on the source of supply which was wiped out of existence a few weeks ago.

The Griseheim factory was situated in the neighbourhood of Frankfurt, with an extensive frontage on the River Main. It consisted of an enormous group of buildings covering an area of over fifty-four acres. Twenty-eight large chimneys, one of them over 200ft high, gave the impression more of an industrial town than a single factory; and numerous piers abutting on the river, combined with an extensive railway system, enabled this huge concern to distribute its products among the world's markets economically and quickly. Before the war it ranked as fourth in importance of the great German chemical works, and was always a flourishing company, paying a pre-war dividend of 14 per cent, and worth as a going concern well over 60,000,000 marks (\$3,000,000).

Its commanding position in the chemical world rested not only on its huge output, but on the extensive variety of its manufactures. These comprised, among other things, synthetic dyes of every description, nitric, sulphuric, and other acids, phosphorus, and alkali, with liquid chlorine, hydrogen, and oxygen as important by-products. What is meant to Germany as a source of munitions of war can thus be readily understood. Moreover, as one of the uncommon instances among German chemical works possessing installations for electro-chemical production, it was of prime importance as a source of synthetic nitrates; and its splendidly organised research laboratory enabled it to play a leading part in the production of poison gas and the other more refined forms of "frightfulness" which Germany has introduced in the course of war. That the Imperial Government has taken the fullest advantage of these facilities is shown by the rapid increase of the works both in extent and output since the beginning of the war, and by the fact that the company has recently decided to increase its share capital by 50 per cent, an increase in which the German Government is more than suspected of having a financial interest.

With regard to the productive capacity of Griseheim, some authoritative facts are available which cast an interesting light on the war activities of this concern. It has been producing saltpetre for the munition works of the German Government since 1900, and in 1914 it was producing 100,000 tons of it annually.

Another circumstance of special interest to us is the fact that this factory supplied large quantities of electrolytic hydrogen for the inflation of Zeppelins, and possessed by way of a reserve three gasometers with a total capacity of over 300,000 cubic feet. So important was it in this respect, that a Zeppelin shed, usually containing two or three airships, was erected in close proximity to the works. For the kite balloons at the front the gas was supplied in steel tubes in the liquefied state. Moreover, the extensive electrolytic plant was further utilised to produce acetylene gas, and lacrymatory and poisonous shells. Indeed, it was the greatest concern of this manufacture in Germany, and in 1916 the output of poison gases reached the colossal figure of nearly 600,000 cubic feet a day.

The extent of the material loss which Germany has suffered by the destruction of the Griseheim factory can thus be easily comprehended. But the disaster is of still wider significance. The variety of the materials formerly produced means, in such a closely interlocking industry as chemical manufacture, that every concern in Germany is affected, both from the cutting out of supplies, which many of them formerly draw from the necessity of making the loss of those supplies good from plants already working to their maximum. The deaths of scores of trained workmen and specialists in the factory itself and in the dwellings within its confines will make the task of coping with this deficit all the more difficult. Even if the material loss can be successfully replaced, the problem of collecting miscellaneous quantities of explosives and acids from various quarters and conveying them over the greater distances than made necessary is bound to complicate further the transport difficulty, already regarded as exceeding pressing in Germany. It is impossible that the works can be reconstituted during the war, and sooner or later Germany must show on her fighting front the signs of this devastating blow struck at her chemical armaments.

EAST AFRICAN CAMPAIGN.

A Letter from Lieut. Bevan.

In the course of a letter from East Africa, Lieut. Bevan, formerly of the Hongkong Volunteers, writes:—

"The war is over here, thank God. I have been in hospital again, with gastritis this time. Guess the stomach has revolted at last against bully beef and biscuit! The Regiment has left, goes to Durban to refit and then to Palestine. I expect to go down in a hospital ship. I believe we of the old brigade get about three months' holiday. Oh! you don't know how thankful we are to shake the dust of German East Africa off. When I look back and think of what we have been through, the risks we run it does seem wonderful that any of us are left. It breaks my heart to think of the good fellows left behind, especially as so many went under these last few months. A landmark of a Fasilier is dotted all over British and German East Africa. No Regiment in the Army has a prouder record. I wonder if I shall spend Christmas south; I do hope so, for I know that I'll have a good time, so different from last Christmas and New Year—to feel that we have not moved out when it breaks, with thoughts and wonderings if we should see another."

be the only factory turning out this article. To such an extent has its already impressive output of soda nitrate and concentrated sulphuric acid been developed, that it supplied the whole demand of five nitroglycerine and dynamite factories, as well as two powder works, including that of Rottweil, one of the most important in Germany. Another explosive, which it manufactured in large quantities, was tonite, through its facilities for making synthetic phenol and consequently picric acid, from which acid this explosive is derived.

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CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

The Murder Trial Resumed.

The charge against Ho Hong, whom it is alleged, murdered an accountant of the Po On Insurance Company, and also stole \$5,000 in notes was proceeded with at the Criminal Sessions this morning, before the Chief Justice (Sir William Ross Davies). The case was opened yesterday and to-day further evidence was given.

The Hon. Attorney General (Mr. J. H. Kemp) is conducting the case for the Crown and Mr. C. G. Alabaster (instructed by Mr. R. O. Faithfull) is defending.

A boy, employed by the firm, said that early on the morning of August 21, he went into the deceased's room to get a tea pot. The deceased was lying down, but witness did not notice anything strange. He went in again after eight o'clock to call the deceased, but received no reply. He then noticed that the deceased's feet were tied and the body covered with a blanket. Witness called other people in the shop and they went into the room.

A shop coolie, who went into the deceased's room at the call of the previous witness, stated that he saw the deceased lying as described by the previous witness a piece of cloth was fixed in the deceased's mouth, and the room was all in disorder.

Answering the Chief Justice, witness stated that the deceased was dead, but he did not know whether the body was warm.

A Clerk employed by the Company, who sleeps in a room behind that occupied by the deceased, said that two others usually shared the room with him. On the night in question he went to bed between 11 and 12 o'clock. During the night, witness got up to get some tea and he saw deceased at the door of his own room smoking a pipe. It was not usual for the deceased to be up so late.

Other evidence of a formal nature was then called.

The case is proceeding.

DAY BY DAY.

No Infected Rats.

There were 1,387 rats caught and examined in Hongkong during the week ending January 19 and 1,955 during the following week. None of these were found to be plague-infected.

Lecture.

Mr. G. P. de Martin will deliver a lecture at the Helena May Lecture on Friday, the 8th inst., at 5.30 p.m., subject: "Lorenzo di Medici." The lecture is open to members and their gentleman friends.

The Colony's Death Rate.

The death rate of the Colony for the week ending January 13 was 21.4 per thousand per annum as against 22.5 for the corresponding week of last year. The rate in the week ending January 20 was 24.7, as compared with 30.2 a year ago.

Football Match.

The following have been selected to represent the 88th Coy. R.G.A. in their match with the 83rd Coy. on the Club ground:—Martin; W. Jones and Phillips; Green; Sharman; and Lieut. Jones; J. L. Jones; Wain, Lieut. Hall; Taylor and Lieut. Millington. Kick-off at 2.30.

Returned from Banishment.

At the Police Court this afternoon, a Chinese, named Chan Fui, was charged before Mr. J. H. Wood, with returning from banishment. It transpired that the man was first of all convicted in April, 1912, for stealing and sentenced to 42 days' hard labour and also banished for five years. He returned in June of the same year and was sentenced to 20 months' hard labour, being sent away for 20 years. He was again arrested on January 11. After hearing the evidence, the Court sentenced him to 12 months' hard labour and also banished him for five years.

IF YOU SMOKE A PIPE OF COURSE YOU SMOKE "CAPSTAN NAVY CUT"

The public are informed that the u
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from importation into the United Kin
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